

STATE ADVISORY COUNCIL ON AGING

November 20, 2014

Radisson Lansing at the Capitol
111 North Grand Avenue, Lansing, MI 48933

MINUTES

Call to Order: Commissioner Michael Sheehan called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. Gloria Lanum called the roll and a quorum was present.

Present: Commissioner Michael Sheehan, Chairperson, John Murphy, Vice-Chairperson, Regina Allen, Nellie Blue, Alan Bond, Kellie Boyd, Lawrence Brooks, Vicente Castellanos, Charles Corwin, Georgia Durga, Kathleen Earle, Elizabeth Ireland-Curtis, Mary Jones, Victoria Laupp, Nicolette McClure, Gerald McCole, Pamela McKenna, Perry Ohren, Roy Pentilla, Jean Peters, Gene Pisha, Kathleen Sauvola, Linda Strohl, Susan Vick, Wendy White, Ginny Wood-Broderick, John Zimmerman, and Ex-Officio Members: Robyn Ford and Elizabeth Thompson

Excused: Thomas Hartwig, Lois Hitchcock, Kathleen Johnston-Calati, Barbara Leo, Grace Marshall, Tammy McCracken, John Pedit, Mary Lou Proefrock, Donald Ryan, Mona Sashital, Terry Vear, Kathleen Williams-Newell, and Richard Zeck

Absent: Carl Field.

Guest: Commissioner Sibyl Ellis.

Office of Services to the Aging (OSA) Staff: Present: Kari Sederburg, Gloria Lanum, Phil Lewis, Becky Payne, Lauren Swanson-Aprill, and Scott Wamsley.

Introduction of New State Advisory Council on Aging (SAC) Members: Commissioner Sheehan welcomed the new SAC members present--Perry Ohren, Kathleen Sauvola, Linda Strohl, and Wendy White--to the SAC.

Introduction of Guest Commissioner: Commissioner Sheehan introduced and welcomed Commissioner Sibyl Ellis.

Agenda: The State Advisory Council (SAC) approved the agenda as presented.

Minutes: The SAC approved the June 19, 2014, minutes as presented.

OSA Director's Report: Kari Sederburg, OSA Director provided the following information:

- Director Sederburg and OSA staff plan to meet with the newly elected legislators about OSA, our aging network, and the importance of services provided for our state's older adults.
- The Governor is very supportive of several OSA goals and promoted the support of Elder Abuse Prevention and awareness (\$1 million for fiscal year (FY) 2015), increased funding for the MI Choice Waiver Program, in-home services, meals

on wheels, senior core volunteer programs, and expansion of the Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE).

- OSA released a request for proposals for the Elder Abuse funds and received six proposals. Elder Law of Michigan, PHI of Michigan (an organization that works to improve the direct care workforce through research and training), and the Prosecutors' Association received grant awards for statewide projects. The other three agencies will be given the opportunity to receive smaller grants for their local projects.
- Regarding the OSA FY 2016 budget, Director Sederburg will be promoting the need for increased funding for the Ombudsman program. This is crucial as it has not been increased in years—instead there have been reductions even though there is an increased use of long-term care supports and services settings by Michigan's growing older adult population. Director Sederburg is interested in working on direct care workforce issues in order to support older adults and people with disabilities in their homes. OSA will be pulling together data about the supports and services provided by our aging network to present during the upcoming FY 2016 budget discussions. She will be reviewing the Michigan Department of Community Health's (MDCH) plan for Medicaid and integrated care. There are now 459,000 people enrolled with the Healthy Michigan Plan. A progress report handout was shared.
- Following discussion about aging network funding and resources, Kari recommended that OSA could provide the SAC with an OSA budget and funding presentation at the next face-to-face SAC meeting in March 2015. The SAC members agreed that this would be helpful.
- Director Sederburg acknowledged and thanked the Silver Key Coalition, a group committed to raising awareness for home and community-based services, for meeting with legislators and advocating for the budget increases. They also received an award from AARP for their advocacy.
- The Governor and the Michigan Department of Insurance and Financial Services released the ***Reinventing MiRetirement Financial Toolkit*** this fall. Copies were distributed.

Old Business

Commission Report: Commissioner Ellis provided a brief report about the October 2014 Commission on Services to the Aging (CSA) meeting and hearing held in Gaylord. Commissioner Ellis reported that Gaylord invited the Commission to look at some of their facilities and programs, which were impressive. The Gaylord aging network consolidated their different offices into one building to reduce overhead costs. The general public was pleased with all of the services offered. The next CSA meeting will be held in Lansing on Friday, November 21, 2014. (It was cancelled.)

Adjunct Technology Report Follow-up: Commissioner Sheehan explained that the SAC's Adjunct Report, *Technology and You*, was presented to the CSA at their October meeting. It was accepted and is now on the OSA website under the About OSA, State Advisory Council on Aging section:

http://michigan.gov/osa/1,4635,7-234-64080_67910---,00.html.

New Business

SAC Budget and Meeting Schedule: Lauren Swanson-Aprill, OSA's Lead of the SAC, reviewed the SAC Budget with the SAC and explained that due to the need to reduce SAC expenditures for 2015 it is necessary to reduce the number of meetings from five to four. Face-to-face meetings will be held in March, April (Joint Commission and SAC meeting), June, and October at the Ramada Hotel and Conference Center located on West Saginaw Highway in Lansing. The SAC will save on costs as there are no parking fees and some of the other meeting costs are less. SAC workgroup conference calls will be held in January, February, and, if needed, in March. Also, OSA can only pay for SAC members to attend SAC meetings and the Joint Commission/SAC meeting held in April. If SAC members would like to attend Commission meetings or hearings, they will need to cover their own travel costs.

Veterans: Lauren reported that Director Sederburg, Deputy Director, Leslie Shanlian, Chair of the Commission, Commissioner Harold Mast, and Lauren met with SAC members John Pedit and Gene Pisha in October to discuss their ideas about getting information to Veterans about benefits including aging network supports and services. Gene Pisha reported there are many veterans who are not filing claims that they are entitled to due to their service to our country. There are 660,000 veterans in Michigan with 15,000 who are disabled. Gene and John Pedit want to work with the SAC and OSA to promote better communication and information to our state's veterans.

Discussion ensued and SAC members are concerned that veterans do not always know what they earned for their years of service. Elizabeth Thompson explained that the Michigan Women's Commission recently completed a survey of Michigan's women's veterans. There are 51,000 in Michigan, and she will share their findings. Gene (and John in October) recommended that all applications for supports and services completed by information and assistance staff ensure that applicants are asked if they served in the military. SAC members were also concerned about

- Veterans missing earned insurance benefits
- Losing their homes
- Needing person-centered support to enable them to use their skills in jobs when they return
- Providing health and mental health support as there is an increase in spouse abuse when they return home from active duty

Director Sederburg explained that because this issue is so important, she, Lauren, and OSA staff met with Jeff Barnes the Director of the Michigan Veteran's Agency (MVA) to discuss how OSA and their organization can work together to move Michigan up from being ranked low in providing supports and services to Michigan's veterans when

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compared with other states. The MVA is partnering with the 211 centers so that when a veteran calls, they can be immediately transferred to the agencies that can assist. A SAC Veterans Workgroup will be formed to address these concerns in partnership with OSA. The Joint Commission and SAC meeting to be held in April will include Veterans as an agenda item and the MVA has been invited to provide a presentation.

Updated Information: Commissioner Ellis shared with the SAC that the Commission will meet as follows:

November 21, 2014, 10:00 a.m.--OSA, Lansing
December 11, 2014—(Since Cancelled)
January 16, 2015—(Since Cancelled)
February 20, 2015—OSA, Lansing
March 20, 2015, 10:00 a.m.—OSA, Lansing
April 17, 2015, 10:00 a.m.—Joint Commission/SAC Mtg.--Ramada Hotel and
Conference Center, Lansing---Public Hearing at 1:00 p.m.
May 15, 2015, 10:00 a.m.—Ramada Lansing Hotel & Conference Center
June 19, 2015, 10:00 a.m.—TBD in Ann Arbor--Public Hearing at 1:00 p.m.
July 17, 2015—10:00 a.m.--Ferris State University, Big Rapids—
Public Hearing at 1:00 p.m.
August 21, 2015, 9:00 a.m.—Ramada Lansing Hotel & Conference Center
September 18, 2015, 9:00 a.m.—Ramada Lansing Hotel & Conference Center
October 16, 2015, 10:00 a.m.—TBD in Escanaba—Public Hearing at 1:00 p.m.
November 20, 2015, 10:00 a.m.—TBD
December 18, 2015, 10:00 a.m.--TBD

Baby Boomer Report: Lauren and Vice Chairperson, John Murphy reviewed the current status of the SAC's Baby Boomer Draft Report. Commissioner Sheehan is bringing the report to the Commission tomorrow for their review and consideration. The input regarding the report received from the SAC members during their June meeting and following is included in the draft. John Murphy summarized and included everyone's input and Lauren shortened the report. Commissioner Sheehan and Becky Payne provided edits to the report too.

One of the key recommendations in the report is that OSA should develop a marketing campaign on the positives of aging. This SAC proposed concept has been added to the OSA State Plan in place of an anti-age discrimination campaign. OSA staff Becky Payne, Phil Lewis, and Shirley Bentsen began researching the concept this fall. Becky and Phil were introduced to the SAC and they provided presentations to the SAC about possible focus areas that the SAC could consider working on over the winter months to support the efforts of OSA in developing a campaign. Phil and Becky cautioned SAC members to be careful about trying to address every related ageism issue. The biggest challenge is how to frame this issue. Messages like 'over the hill' can be humorous to some, but offensive and hurtful to others. Some AARP statistics showed that people who are age 50 and older account for half of the consumers in the U.S., yet they are only visible in 10% of the marketing. Exploring this issue would be helpful. Another challenge is how to be prepared to respond to people when they share

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misconceptions and negative messages about aging. Questions needing to be answered include: “How do we want to define ageism?” “What specifically do we want to look at and target—for example is respect an issue of ageism?” A short adjunct report on how to promote the positives of aging needs to be developed by April 17, 2015.

Brainstorm the Positives of Aging to Establish Workgroups: Following discussion, it was determined that the SAC would form new workgroups to study deeper the positives of aging in the following topics over the winter months: Education—Normal Aging—Mindful /Perception of Positive Aging, Volunteerism, Media - Marketing, and Veterans. The workgroups met after lunch, chose their workgroup leaders, and determined when they would hold their conference calls. SAC members, who were unable to attend the meeting, will be contacted regarding their workgroup choice. The updated list of workgroups, their meeting times, and flip chart notes will be sent to the SAC in December.

Commissioner Sheehan adjourned the meeting at 2:05 p.m.

Next Meeting: The SAC will meet Thursday, March 19, 2015, at 9:30 a.m. at the Ramada Hotel and Conference Center in Lansing. The meeting was adjourned at 2:05 p.m.